

REMARKS

The Pending Claims

In the application, claims 5 through 7 are pending. No claims currently stand allowed.

Summary of the Office Action

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 121, the Office Action dated November 4, 2003, requires an election of one of two restriction groups. The Office Action groups claims 1 through 4 into Group I and claims 5 through 7 into Group II.

Discussion of Restriction Requirement

In response to the Office Action dated November 4, 2001, which sets forth a two-way restriction requirement, applicants elect the invention of group II (claims 5-7) for further prosecution. Accordingly, the claims of group I (claims 1-4) have been canceled without prejudice in this application, and are the subject of a recently filed divisional application.

Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher T. Griffith, Reg. No. 33,392
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

Date: December 4, 2003